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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
Committee on Public Safety and Economic Development

BILL 28, RELATING TO SMOKING

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

May 14, 2013
9:00 am

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the passage of Bill 28 which
2 would create protections from the involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke at all Honolulu City and
3 County public bus stops.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None

5 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure adds a new definition of "bus stop" and expands the
6 prohibition of smoking in certain places to include any city bus stop and the physical indicators
7 demarcating the boundaries of the bus stop.

8 Involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke is unhealthy and preventable. Research, cited in a
9 study published in the *Journal of the Air and Waste Management Association*, confirms that a person
10 sitting or standing next to a smoker outdoors can breathe in smoke that is many times more polluted than
11 normal background pollution levels. The 2006 US Surgeon General's Report found that even brief
12 exposure to secondhand smoke may have adverse effects on the heart and respiratory systems and
13 increase the severity of asthma attacks, especially in children.

1 Increasingly, across the country, municipalities are acting to protect the health and well-being of
2 its citizens by creating smoke-free environments. The City and County of Honolulu has recently taken
3 bold and significant action regarding beaches, parks, and recreation areas. However, most of the 4,000
4 bus stops on Oahu remain unprotected. Ridership on Oahu is estimated at over 236,000 trips each day,
5 of which 90% of the commuters are employed or students who rely on the bus as a primary mode of
6 transportation. They are often subjected to the toxic chemicals that drift from a waiting passenger's
7 cigarette. Given the need to signal an approaching bus by standing near or next to signage demarcating
8 the stop, riders must often stay within close proximity to any smokers. These circumstances provide for
9 potentially hazardous conditions for vulnerable individuals such as those with chronic disease, the
10 elderly, or children. Additionally, bus stops are considered a workplace for Oahu's 1,184 bus operators.

11 The positive impact of creating smoke-free bus stops would be far reaching as Honolulu bus
12 ridership per capita is #4 in the nation behind New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. The DOH
13 supports this effort which ensures smoke-free areas to protect Oahu's residents and tourists and creates a
14 cleaner, healthier, and safer transit system.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.